# SPECTACULAR ROCKIES AND GLACIERS OF ALBERTA

Discover Jasper and Banff National Parks and the Columbia Icefield. Meet a First Nations Cree Iroquois Local Expert.

8 DAYS | 1 COUNTRY | 11 MEALS | DYNAMIC ACTIVITY





#### Trip code: AGVL

### **DEPARTURE MONTHS**

May - Sep

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see insightvacations.com/alberta

#### DAY 1 | WELCOME TO BANFF

After your arrival at Calgary Airport, your stay at a historic mountain resort in Banff awaits. Built in the distinctive Canadian Château style, it is one of the earliest examples of the country's grand railway hotels. Tonight, join your Travel Director and fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner. (D)

Fairmont Banff Springs.

#### **DAY 2 | EXPLORING BANFF**

Connect with nature as you join a memorable MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience with a First Nations Cree Iroquois Local Expert. Discover First Nations culture, such as how plants and animals like bears hold great significance. This authentic dive into the First Nations Cree community is not only enlightening but also helps assure the sustainability of the community and culture. You'll embark on a guided walk in the Boreal Forest and learn the Indigenous world of plant medicines as well as the historical and modern-day uses of plants and listen to fascinating stories about the First Nations. This afternoon, choose to relax and unwind in Banff Hot Springs. Or, learn about the history of the Fairmont Banff Springs from a knowledgeable ambassador. Hear stories of events that took place around and at this hotel and receive a self-guided map of highlight locations for you to discover. (B)

#### DAY 3 | A TRIP TO LAKE LOUISE

The Three Sisters Peak or Mt Assiniboine will impress on this morning's optional helicopter flights (weather dependent). Make your way to Moraine Lake — the largest glacially fed lake in Canada — for a photo stop before a decadent lunch at Louiza Restaurant at Chateau Lake Louise. Marvel as you're surrounded by soaring peaks and the majesty of the Victoria glacier. Capture a photo or two of the turquoise Lake Louise and rugged backdrop of one of the most famous mountain vistas in the world before returning to Banff and enjoying the rest of your day at leisure. Tonight, opt for a scenic end to your day by taking Banff Gondola ride. (B) (L)

# DAY 4 | LAKES, MOUNTAINS AND GLACIERS

The glaciers, waterfalls and peaks of Yoho Park are revealed on this morning's visit to Yoho National Park. Your journey includes photo opportunities at Emerald Lake and Takakkaw Falls before taking the Icefields Parkway, one of the most beautiful drives on the planet. Admire the dramatic scenery of the Rockies with plenty of photo opportunities. A warm welcome greets you at the country's first and only glacier-view resort over a Champagne reception and nibbles. Before dinner, take advantage of the long daylight hours and set out for an afterhours visit to the Columbia Icefield Skywalk, a glass-floored walkway above the Sunwapta Valley featuring waterfalls and wildlife. After your Skywalk visit, indulge in a delicious, Canadian inspired, locally sourced dinner, sip cocktails and marvel at the spectacular glacier views that wrap the restaurant. (B) (D)

Glacier View Lodge.

INCLUDED MEALS: Breakfast (B) Dinner (D) HOTELS: On occasion, hotels of a similar standard and location may be used.

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#### **DAY 5 | GLACIER ADVENTURE**

Before other travelers arrive, venture onto the Athabasca Glacier in a massive Ice Explorer for your special, before-hours visit. Join your Local Expert and walk on the frozen flow of ice. Discover the beauty and immensity of the glacier as you learn about the history and geology of the region. Continue along the magnificent Icefields Parkway and arrive at Jasper National Park with its soothing mineral hot springs, colorful meadows and majestic mountains. (B)

The Crimson Jasper.

#### **DAY 6 | EXPLORING JASPER**

Enjoy a relaxed start this morning or join the fun and experience an optional easy rafting, scenic float trip down the Athabasca River, a designated Canadian Heritage River. A National Park licensed guide will provide commentary on the human and natural history of Jasper while navigating you along the same route used by the "fur traders" over 2 centuries ago. Don't worry the guides do all the rowing; you sit back and enjoy while exploring all the spectacular scenery. There is always a chance of seeing various wildlife including elk, deer, moose, coyotes, wolves, eagles, ospreys, mountain sheep and bears. Join your Travel Director on an informative walk on the Maligne Canyon, the deepest gorge in Jasper National Park. As you tour across the crystal waters of magical Maligne Lake, fed by the glaciers of Jasper National Park and glide

past the jagged mountain peaks you'll discover why it's been declared the "Best Boat Cruise in Canada." (B)

#### **DAY 7 | JOURNEY TO KANANASKIS**

Enjoy a scenic drive down to Kananaskis, often kept as a secret mountain sanctuary for locals, away from the masses that visit neighboring Banff National Park. Enjoy the late afternoon to yourself to discover the local trails surrounding your upscale hotel nestled in the wilderness, or head to the Nordic Spa located steps away from the lodge. Tonight, come together with your fellow travelers for a festive Celebration Dinner and toast to your wonderful trip in the Canadian Rockies. (B) (D)

Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, Autograph Collection.

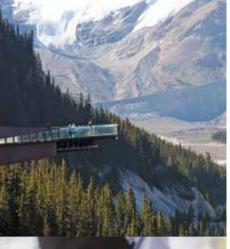
#### **DAY 8 | FAREWELL CANADA**

After breakfast, you are transferred to Calgary Airport where your journey comes to an end. Arrival time at airport is approximately 12:00. (B)

#### **ROCKY MOUNTAINEER RETURN OPTION**

Relax onboard the Rocky Mountaineer for two days of all-daylight rail travel through Canada's West and the Canadian Rockies.







## Insightful Experiences

Icefields Parkway: Enjoy an after-hours visit to the amazing Glacier Skywalk. Step onto the cliff-edged, glass-floored walkway rising 918 ft (280 meters) above the Sunwapta Valley offering sweeping views of the valley and Columbia Icefield | Board a specially designed Ice Explorer led by an expert driver to discover the frosty flow of Athabasca Glacier before-hours.





DAY 2 | Join a First Nations Cree Iroquois Local Expert and take a walk in the Boreal forest. Learn how their ancestors survived off the land and used the plants as medicines. Listen to amazing stories about First Nations culture and their relationship with local nature and wildlife.

#### Insight Choice

Banff: Choose to learn about the history of the Fairmont Banff Springs from a knowledgeable ambassador who will share stories of events that took place in and around the hotel. Or, visit the Banff Upper Hot Springs bathhouse, declared a Registered Federal Historical Building, and enjoy a soak.

# Top Rated Highlights

Visit Banff National Park | Lake Louise | Jasper National Park | Moraine Lake | | Icefields Parkway scenic drive | Maligne | Lake | Sunwapta Falls | Athabasca Falls | | Maligne Canyon.